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SPOKANE COUNTY

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

October, 1990

Superfund Fact Sheet

Colbert Landfill
Spokane County, Washington

PROJECT UPDATE

You are invited to attend a "Press Day" on November 2, 1990 at 10:30 am to see the pilot groundwater extraction and treatment system in operation at the corner of Yale and Woolard Roads. Representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington Department of Ecology, and Spokane County will be on hand to answer questions about the system and the project.

Pilot Test of Extraction and Treatment System To Begin

The pilot extraction well, treatment, and discharge system is scheduled for construction and testing this month. The equipment has arrived and will initially will be set up near the intersection of Yale and Woolard Roads and will extract water from the South extraction well. The pumping tests are scheduled to begin about October 26 and last for two to three weeks.

After completion of the testing for the South system, the treatment plant will be disassembled and relocated to the landfill property. The system will then be used to test the West and East extraction wells. Results from these tests will determine if the air stripping process selected as the final remedy for this site will meet the treatment criteria established in the Record of Decision.

The pilot treatment system will be operating during several winter months. Winter time is the best time to determine if discharge from the tower will affect local weather patterns such as increasing fog. Once the testing is completed and the data analyzed, many of the community's and technical staff's questions about the final system will be answered. These results will be available in a Phase I Engineering Report expected to be available in August 1991. More information about the project and the pilot treatment system will be covered in future project updates like this one.

Pilot Test to Provide Design Information

During the pumping tests, measurements will be taken to determine aquifer response, draw down in wells, and contaminant and hydraulic loadings on the system. These aquifer tests are important to both the engineers who will design the final system and the community who uses the aquifer as a water source. Evaluation of the aquifer response will help determine if there will be impacts to individual supply wells. Any unusual problems encountered with a well should be documented in writing and provided to the County.

Additional tests to determine the design criteria for the final pump and treatment system include groundwater pumping tests, air monitoring, and air modeling tests. Data gathered from these tests will be used:

- to develop and verify specific treatment criteria for the design of the Phase II system (final),
- to treat the groundwater pumped during the test to the appropriate discharge standards, and
- to begin the remediation of the groundwater contamination plume.

Changes in Contaminant Plume and Proposed Wells Locations

The groundwater monitoring activities that have occurred during the past year have been successful in better

defining the direction of groundwater flow and the distribution of contaminants in the Upper and Lower Aquifers. This information has resulted in some changes in the proposed locations of the extraction well systems that were illustrated in the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and Record of Decision (ROD). The changes in locations include:

- Moving the West Interception System closer to the landfill rather than along the highway to avoid extracting excessive quantities of uncontaminated groundwater.
- Moving the South Interception System east of Yale Road to conform to the direction of groundwater flow and contaminant migration.
- Reducing the number of wells in the East Extraction System. The ROD proposed 12 extraction wells east of the landfill. There does not appear to be enough groundwater in this area for long term groundwater extraction. If the changes were not made, operating extraction wells in this area could pull contaminated groundwater from the landfill towards the extraction wells, increasing rather than decreasing contaminant levels east of the landfill.

Further information gained during the pump tests that are part of the pilot tests will be used to determine the appropriate number and final locations of the extraction wells.

For More Information:

If you have questions about the project, please contact the following people:

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